

AGENDA ITEM: Statewide Information Databases**GENERAL OVERALL PROGRAM UPDATES:****CURRENT STATUS:**Librarians' Index to the Internet (lii.org)

The lii.org Advisory Board met in Sacramento on January 24th. Karen G. Schneider, coordinator, updated Board members on progress to date, changes on the website and in record production and reviewed goals for 2002. Usage is up 37% over the quarter last year. The database has grown by 5% during the October – December 2001 period, which is notable since weeding activity has nearly tripled from the previous year. Indexers now receive a monthly newsletter and the lii.org editors and coordinator have established a “Best Record of the Month” award to encourage teamwork and increase recognition of the critical role the volunteer indexers play in the development of lii.org.

Co-branding work continues with 26 Library of California members and two regional networks now taking advantage of this membership benefit. The creation and maintenance of co-branded sites does require a substantial amount of resources and management is exploring policy and technical issues that might help contain costs while still providing this valuable service.

Overwhelmingly, the reason searches fail in lii.org is that the content the end-user is seeking is not present. lii.org has under 9,000 entries—a very small fraction of even the best, most relevant sites that should be included in a database that wishes to provide “Information You Can Trust.” To address this problem requires more content, and more support for the labor that manages content. The budget proposed for 2002 – 2003 targets this important area.

Cooperative Licensing Services

A survey to determine cooperative licensing needs has been mailed to all members in six of the seven LoC regions. Members from Arroyo Seco had previously been surveyed as part of their cooperative licensing pilot project. Amigos Library Services will analyze the survey to best design California specific offerings.

Utilization of Amigos by LoC members will be analyzed to identify impediments to service and to predict the need for continued funding. Golden Gateway Library Network has indicated that it wishes to be more involved with working with members' use of Amigos. Cascade Pacific Library Network has seen little involvement with Amigos since they are providing direct subsidies from regional

funds for database subscriptions. Arroyo Seco Library Network has three vendors offering discounts specifically for ASLN members.

As libraries prepare for fiscal year 2002 –2003 and initiate or renew database subscriptions usage of Amigos services may increase. At present funding for Amigos will most likely enable continued cooperative licensing services through 2002-2003 for all members without additional allocations from the LoC Board.

Library of California Periodicals/Serials Database

A Library Services and Technology Act project to study the union serials database process for California and to recommend appropriate courses of action has been delayed due to lack of response to the Request for Proposal. Staff will evaluate alternate courses of actions to prepare the database to conform to new input standards required from the University of California, California Digital Library(CDL).

The new CDL platform continues to evolve. Issues related to the record requirements are being discussed with CDL staff. Current CDL project plans call for a single merged database of both periodical and monograph records. A periodicals title search will be available to limit access to periodicals only. Both the new and old versions of the database will be in place from Spring, 2002-December 31, 2002 with a complete transition to the new version of the catalog taking place during January 2003.

Relevant Committee: Support Services
Staff Liaison: Ira Bray